



Newsletter April-May 2008

Welcome!

Welcome to **Tiffany** and **Shannon**, who join us in the main sessions, and to **Rufus**, **Daisy**, **Jack T.**, **Lucy** and **Erin** who all move up to the main sessions from our two-year old sessions. We welcome **Hayden**, **Sebastian** and **Otto** to our two-year old sessions on Thursday afternoons.

This Term's News

Mini-Beasts! We are now setting off our magnifying glasses and notebooks and are on the lookout for mini-beasts of every kind!

On **Monday 19 May**, **Zoo Lab** will be visiting us with a selection of mini-beasts that the children will be able to view and handle if they would like to.

We are sharing the cost of this visit with the reception class from Downton Primary School, who will be seeing the mini-beasts after us, but as there is still a considerable cost involved, we will need to ask you for a donation of £2 if your child wishes to take part. The activity will begin at 12.30 and last approximately one hour. Please bring in your £2 at any time from now and Wednesday 7 May, so we can have an idea of how many children will be attending.

All Pre-school children are welcome to this event, but will need to be accompanied by a parent/carer if they do not normally attend on a Monday afternoon.

Parents' event this term will be on **Tuesday 20 May** from 12.30 onwards. The children will be singing mini-beast songs, and the refreshments will include lots of mini-beast inspired goodies made by the children. All parents and carers welcome with their children. Please do come along and see what the children have been doing!

Garden Update So far this term we have planted sweet peas, radish and lettuce in our raised bed at the Primary School – we shall continue to take small groups of the children to tend these and plant other things as often as possible. If any parents would like to accompany a group, please talk to any member of staff.

Fee Increase

From September 2008, the fee per session will rise to £7. Lunch club fees remain unchanged for the time being.

Cuckoo Fair

Downton Cuckoo Fair is **Saturday 3 May**, and we are very grateful to the White Horse for allowing us space to do some face painting and have a lucky dip to raise money for our funds. We do need a rota of helpers on the day; please sign up on the sheet at the door if you are able to help for an hour.

Committee News and AGM

Next Committee Meeting Tuesday 29 April, White Horse, 8pm. All welcome. This will be the last Committee Meeting before the AGM.

AGM Monday 19 May, 8pm at the Band Hall. See separate letter. All welcome, including fathers, grandparents and other carers.

Requests

We run low on tissues very quickly – if parents could bring in a box of tissues each, that would be a great help. Thank you.

Every spring/summer we raise money for Pre-school by selling plants, usually on a stall outside the door. Donations of plastic plant pots, seed trays, compost, seeds and plants would be very welcome and greatly appreciated.

Toddle Waddle

Thank you to everyone who took part in the **Toddle Waddle** for the Meningitis Trust on **Tuesday 1 April**. It was a lovely afternoon which everyone enjoyed, despite some tired little feet by the end. Juice and biscuits were very much deserved! The sponsor money is still coming in, and we will let you know how much has been raised.

Sainsbury's and Tesco's schemes

Sainsbury's Active Kids scheme runs from 14 Feb to 4 June. Last year we collected enough vouchers for some bean bags, a balance board and a book of games for our parachute.

Tesco's Computers for Schools scheme runs from 3 March to 11 May. Last year we were able to order some software for our computer, including a colourful children's encyclopaedia.

Collecting boxes are in the lobby – we are very grateful for all your vouchers!

Term dates

Term 5: 21 Apr – 23 May 2008

Term 6: 2 Jun – 25 Jul 2008

Bank Holiday 5 May 2008.

We are still awaiting confirmation of the 08/09 year dates, and will let you all know as soon as possible.

Web site

A reminder of our web site:
<http://www.downtonpreschool.co.uk/>